

## **GUIDELINE FOR THE PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF NOROVIRUS GASTROENTERITIS OUTBREAKS IN HEALTHCARE SETTINGS** Comments

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Implement systems to designate patients with symptomatic norovirus **while ensuring privacy** and to notify receiving healthcare facilities or personnel prior to transfer of such patients within or between facilities. (Category II)

3.B.2 All shared food items for patients or staff should be removed from clinical areas for the duration of the outbreak. **(Category IB)** (Key Question 3B) **recommend providing some example of this**

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3.C.2.b Clinical and environmental services staff, as well as visitors, should wear gloves and gowns when entering areas under isolation or cohorting. **(Category IB)** (Key Question 3C) **- recommend clarifying this – actual patient rooms or otherwise define what is meant by “areas under isolation or cohorting”**

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**this is very helpful:** 3.C.12.c.2 No additional provisions for the use of disposable patient service items such as utensils or dishware are required for patients with symptoms of norovirus infection. Silverware and dishware may undergo normal processing and cleaning using standard procedures. Staff handling soiled patient-service items should use Standard Precautions. **(Category II)** (Key Question 3C)

**as well as:**

3.C.12.d.5 No additional provisions, such as the practice of double bagging, incineration, or modifications for laundering are recommended for linen. Staff handling soiled linens should adhere to Standard Precautions. **(Category II)** (Key Question 3C)

3.C.3 Facilities should develop and adhere to sick leave policies for healthcare personnel symptomatic with norovirus infection. Ill staff members should be excluded from work for a minimum of 48 hours after the resolution of symptoms. Once staff return to work, adherence to hand hygiene must be maintained. **(Category IB)** (Key Question 3C) **- recommend stating that adherence to hand hygiene must be monitored to assure compliance**

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3.C.7.b Restrict non-essential visitors from affected areas during outbreaks of norovirus gastroenteritis. For those facilities that proceed with continued visitor privileges, screening visitors for symptoms consistent with norovirus infection is encouraged. **(Category IB)** (Key Question 3C) **as well as providing visitor education to aid in understanding and compliance with precautions. (I do see that it is also in the next paragraph on that page which may suffice)**

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3.C.2.b Clinical and environmental services staff, as well as visitors, should wear gloves and gowns when entering areas under isolation or cohorting. **(Category IB)** (Key Question 3C)

**- as noted above, recommend clarifying this – actual patient rooms or otherwise define what is meant by “areas under isolation or cohorting”**